

March Meetings

Dates & Times

Matinee, 2:30 p.m., Wednesday
March 11, 1981

Evenings, 8:00 p.m., Wednesday and
Thursday, March 11 and 12, 1981

Place

May Treat Morrison Auditorium

Speaker

Dr. John P. Monteverdi

Subject

"The Pacific Ocean: Bane and Boon to
Weather Forecasters"

To take an umbrella . . . or leave it at home. This time of year that is the question, and some days we wonder where the weatherman gets his information. This month members of the Academy will get an informed and inside view of how weather is predicted for the Pacific coast, a task that is difficult for both short and long term forecasting because of the meager information available from the Pacific Ocean.

But, according to our guest speaker, Dr. John P. Monteverdi, Professor of Meteorology at San Francisco State University, the job is becoming easier thanks to two relatively recent methods of forecasting. The first is the use of weather satellites and their photos, and the second is a technique for predicting precipitation in California based on Pacific Ocean temperatures. This method has produced accurate forecasts of drought or flood a season or more in advance. Dr. Monteverdi's lecture will be accompanied by weather satellite photos so members can practice their own weather predicting skills while they learn!

As usual your membership card will admit you through the main entrance at Cowell Hall for the evening presentations and through Cowell Hall or Wattis Hall entrances for the matinee. Please be prepared to present your card once more at the auditorium door for the matinee program.

Special Exhibits



Western Wildflowers, Weeds and Grasses is the title of a new exhibit of photographs opening March 4, in Cowell Hall. The exhibit features more than 30 photos by Monte Hartman, a well known photography instructor in the bay area. The work in this show is characterized by a strong graphic quality which reflects Hartman's background as an industrial and graphic designer.

Continuing exhibits at the Academy include **Exploring the Deep Frontier: The Adventure of Man in the Sea; Feather Arts: Beauty Wealth and Spirit from Five Continents; Mirounga**, featuring color and black and white photographs of the elephant seals at Ano Nuevo; and **Reflections on Alaska**.

Special Lectures

REFLECTIONS ON ALASKA

Thursday, March 19, 1981
at 8:00 p.m. in the Morrison Auditorium
with Rick Brugger

Alaska is one of the world's last bastions of true wilderness and of its many national parks and preserves the finest is Mt. McKinley National Park, (recently renamed Denali National Park and Preserve). Here visitors can easily view large numbers of mammals and migratory birds, hundreds of species of alpine wildflowers and, of course, the majesty of Mt. McKinley and the surrounding peaks of the Alaska Range.

In conjunction with the photographic exhibit now on display in Lower Cowell Hall, Rick Brugger, photographer, naturalist and mountaineer, will present this free slide/lecture on Alaska's accessible wilderness and offer some backcountry photographic techniques.

Members are encouraged to bring friends to this special Academy presentation which is offered free of charge.

LEAKEY and GOODALL This Spring

Two special lectures co-sponsored by the California Academy of Sciences, the Committee for Arts and Lectures, the Berkeley Anthropology Dept., and the L.S.B. Leakey Foundation are scheduled this spring in Berkeley. Both lectures will take place in the Zellerbach Auditorium at the University of California at Berkeley beginning at 8:00 p.m.

Monday, April 6, 1981

Mary D. Leakey will speak on "From Fossils to Footprints: Evidence of Man's Evolution in East Africa"

Wednesday, May 6, 1981

Jane Goodall will discuss "New Insights into the Behavior of Chimpanzees at Gombe, Tanzania"

Tickets are available from the University Box Office, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720. Call 642-9988 for information on Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$6.00 for general admission; \$3.00 for students (unreserved seating); and \$20.00 for patrons. Patron tickets include special seating, receptions to meet Dr. Leakey and Jane Goodall and round-trip bus transportation from San Francisco.

Morrison Planetarium

What happens when the last star flickers out of existence? This ultimate energy crisis is the subject of the current daily sky show at the Morrison Planetarium entitled, **The Last Question**. This fascinating show was written by science fiction author Isaac Asimov, and is narrated by the familiar voice of Leonard Nimoy, Star Trek's inscrutable Mr. Spock.

The Last Question can be seen Monday through Friday at 2:00 p.m. and on weekends at 12:30, 2:00 and 3:30 p.m. Members, of course, have free admission privileges with their planetarium passes.

Volunteers needed in planetarium!

The Morrison Planetarium needs some extra help in the office, primarily answering phones and taking reservations for school shows. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please call Velma Stiers in the Volunteer Office at 221-5100, Ext. 263.

Light Shows

Enjoy one of the light shows in the Morrison Planetarium this month... it's an energizing experience! Showtimes are:

Lights Fantastic: Friday at 7:30 and 9:00 p.m.; Saturday at 5:00, 7:30 and 9:00 p.m.; and Sunday at 5:00 and 7:30 p.m.

Rock Fantasy: Thursday and Sunday at 9:00 p.m. and Friday and Saturday at 10:30 p.m.

Use your discount coupon from the February Newsletter through March 31! For more information call 387-6300 or 6301. Tickets are available through all BASS outlets and members are reminded that this is **not** a regular planetarium show **nor** are your planetarium passes usable for this attraction.

Inside the Academy



Become a Docent and Share the Joy of Discovery!

The Docent Council of the California Academy of Sciences will begin a new class called "The Basic Course" this September to prepare trainees for touring North American and Simson African Halls at the natural history museum complex. This college level course in vertebrate biology is taught by scientists at the Academy and faculty members from San Francisco State University. The class runs from September through March with the usual holiday breaks. It is open to Academy members willing to serve three mornings a month for two years after completion of the training period. (Gentlemen are especially welcome and needed!)

Tuition for the course is \$50 and scholarships can be requested. Four units of upper division credit are available through the extension division of San Francisco State for an additional fee.

The Docent Program offers a marvelous opportunity to become better acquainted with the staff of the Academy and to join the nearly 130 enthusiastic graduates now serving the Academy in this worthwhile activity. For more information and an application call the Docent Office at 221-5100, Ext. 254.

Snake Facts and Fancies!

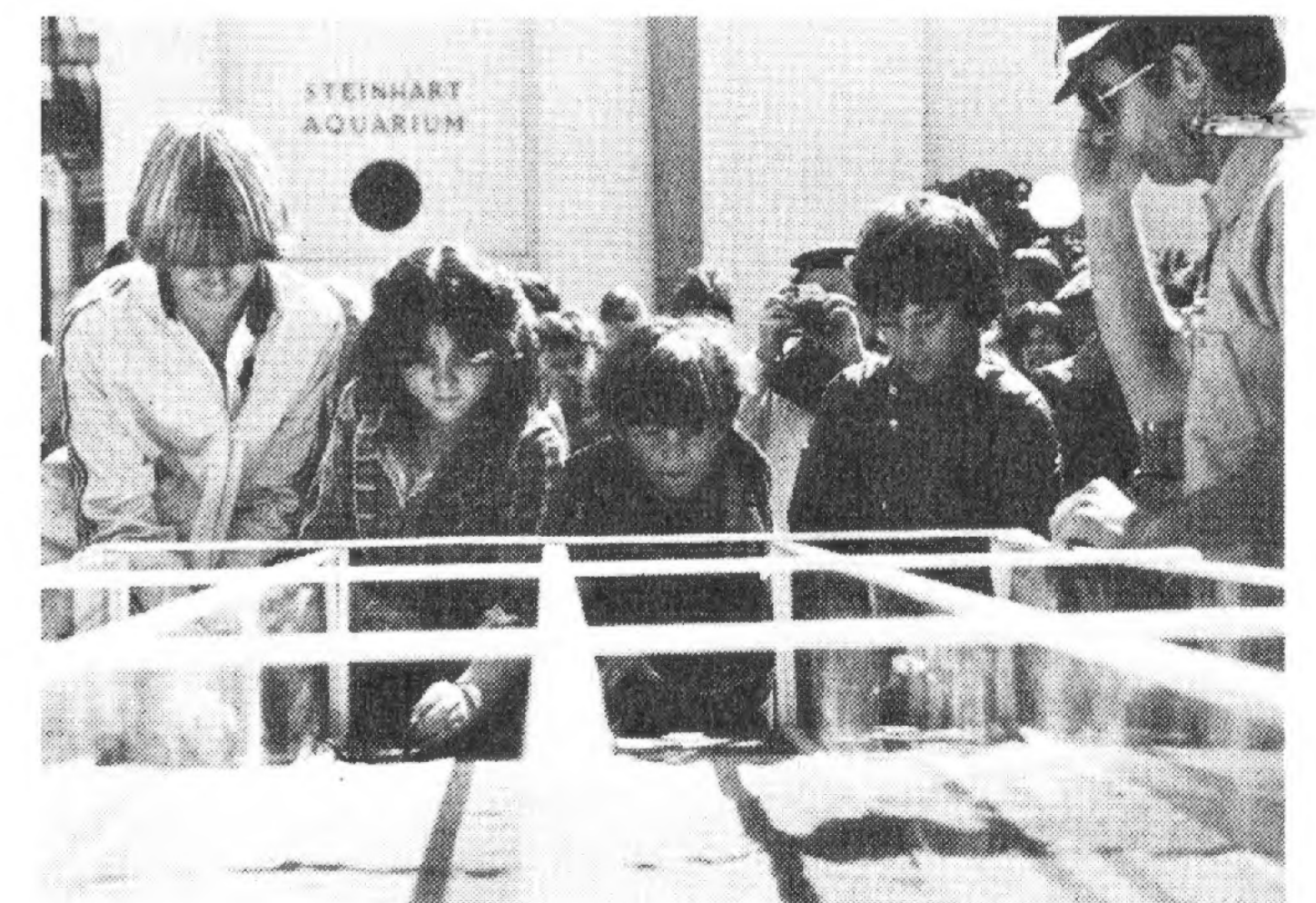
There were never any snakes in Ireland, as the old legend goes, but they will be on the race track at the Steinhart Aquarium at the Fourth Annual St. Patrick's Day Snake Race this Saturday, March 14!

Throughout the event Academy herpetologists will be on hand to answer questions about snakes and reptiles in general, and the races are nothing but fun. There is no entry fee or pre-registration; just bring your pet snake to the central courtyard and sign him (or her) up.

Registration of snakes will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 and then the races will begin. If you do not own a snake you can borrow one of our snakes, all tried and true racers. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place winners, and a special prize will be given to the owner of the snake with the most clever name. First prize is a behind-the-scenes-tour of Steinhart Aquarium for your class, family or organization, plus a special gift to the snake jockey.

Please note: No poisonous or dangerous snakes will be allowed and qualified staff members will be the final authority on questions of snake eligibility.

The fun starts at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, March 14. Call 221-5100 and ask for the Snake Race Office if you have any questions.



Science Fiction or Fact?

A Look at Science and the Science Fiction Film.

Join us for six exciting evenings of fact and fantasy as two scientists (and longtime science fiction devotees) compare the predictions of science fiction to the theories and discoveries of modern science.

Each evening will feature a non-technical slide/lecture on a scientific subject of current interest and a full-length science fiction film. The program is designed for the general public and no background in science or science fiction is necessary. (Program and registration form follow).

PROGRAM

March 18

Lecture: **An Illustrated History of the Martians**
Film: **War of the Worlds**

March 25

Lecture: **Time Machines: The Possible
and the Impossible**
Film: **Time Machine**

April 1

Lecture: **Giant Monsters and Shrinking People**
Film: **Them**

April 15

Lecture: **Life Among the Stars: Are We Alone?**
Film: **The Andromeda Strain**

April 22

Lecture: **The Image of the Scientist
in Popular Culture**
Film: **The Day the Earth Stood Still**

April 29

Lecture: **Astronomy in the Dead of Night:
The Origin of the Universe**
Film: **Dead of Night**

Ticket Information and Registration Form:

Tickets are available for **Science Fiction or Fact?** with this registration form. Reservations will be accepted in order of receipt and unfortunately telephone reservations cannot be taken for this event. Tickets for individual lectures will be sold at the door on a space available basis for \$4.00 per person.

For further information please call the Education Office, (415) 221-5100.

TICKET ORDER FORM

Please mail this form with check, made payable to the CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, and a self-addressed envelope to:

SCIENCE FICTION OR FACT?
California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park,
San Francisco, CA 94118

Price: \$20 for 6 lectures

Name _____

Address _____

Zip Code _____

Daytime Telephone # _____

Tickets @\$20 _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____

NO REFUNDS / NO EXCHANGES

Education and Travel

Nature Photography

Class Sessions: April 8, 15, 22 and May 6
7 - 9:30 p.m.

Field Trips: April 18 and 26

Learn the techniques of interpreting the wonders of nature with your camera. Monte Hartman instructs in the class and in the field. For information, call the Education/Travel Office at (415) 221-5100.

Baja California Circumnavigated

March 28 - April 10, wait-list only

The Natural History of Coastal California

April 24 - 28

Dr. Stan Williams will lead members southward by bus to Santa Barbara. Highlights will include Point Lobos, Big Sur and Hearst Castle, the Santa Barbara Botanical Gardens and Natural History Museum and a cruise to the Channel Islands. Cost is \$585 from San Francisco. For information, call Gulliver's Travels at 346-4400.

Canyonlands Nature Photography Expedition

May 29 - June 7

Ernest Braun, well-known photographer, author and teacher, will lead members on a photographic expedition to some of the most scenic areas in the United States. Participants will camp in comfort as they photograph the splendors of Bryce Canyon National Park, Capitol Reef National Monument, and Zion National Park. Cost is \$890 plus air. For information, please call Nature Expeditions International at (415) 494-6572.

Pueblo Country I

June 5 - 14, wait-list only

The Indians and the scenic beauties of the Southwest are the focus of this tour led by Dr. Dorothy Washburn. From Albuquerque, members will visit Chaco Canyon, Aztec Ruins National Monument, Mesa Verde National Monument, Taos and Sante Fe. Cost is \$1187, including air. For information, call Gulliver's Travels at (415) 346-4400.

Alaska

June 6 - 21

Jacqueline Schonewald will lead members on our popular annual tour to the great State of Alaska. A cruise to the Columbia Glacier, several days in Denali (Mt. McKinley National Park), a visit to the "Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes" and an overnight cruise in Glacier Bay are but a few of the high points of this

tour. Cost is \$2201 for land and \$416 for air at current G.I.T. rates. For information, call Siemer & Hand, Ltd. at (415) 788-7186.

The Galapagos Islands

July 15 - 29

Come aboard the **M.V. Santa Cruz** on our annual tour to those "living laboratories of evolution" . . . the Galapagos Islands, with the guidance of Dr. Sylvia Earle. Lindblad Travel is offering a ten-percent discount on a limited number of cabins to Academy members. Costs range from \$1890 - \$3040 for land/cruise arrangements and \$863 for air at current G.I.T. rates. For information, call the Academy Travel Office at (415) 221-5100.

Zambezi Safari

July 27 - August 15

Dr. Lawrence Swan will lead members to Zambia and Zimbabwe along the Zambezi River on a fabulous safari adventure. Game drives, river trips, and guided treks highlight our exploration of the Luangwa Valley, Kafue National Park, Victoria Falls and Salisbury, the capital city of Zimbabwe. An optional extension to Botswana's Okavango Delta and Chobe National Park is also available. Cost is \$2135 for land and \$1720 for air at current rates. Botswana extension is \$695 additional. For information, call the Academy Travel Office at (415) 221-5100.

National Parks Tour II

September

Mr. Charles Chesterman will lead members on a geological exploration of several of our national parks. Geologic history will be easily viewed and understood in the settings of Bryce Canyon National Park, Zion National Park and the magnificent Grand Canyon. For information call Gulliver's Travels at (415) 346-4400.

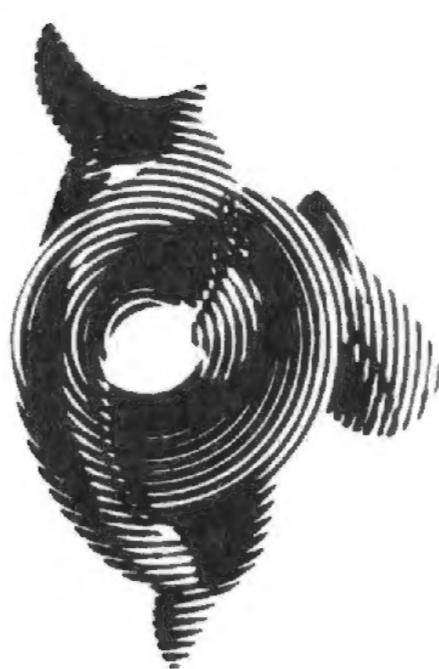
Baja California Overland

November 7 - 14

Annetta Carter leads one of our most popular annual tours to the beautiful Baja California Peninsula. Members will travel by bus as they explore the fascinating history and natural history of this area. A one-week cruise by boat through the Sea of Cortez is available for those who wish to continue their Mexican adventure. For information, please call the Academy Travel Office, at (415) 221- 5100.

Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California 94118

No. 495



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California Academy of Sciences Newsletter March 1981

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San Francisco, California